ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HABITAT PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE
HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL

Game Branch / HPC Project Number:	14-702

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: AZ Big Game Species Genetic Data Base

Region and Game Management Unit: Statewide

Local Habitat Partnership Committee (LHPC): • Prescott HPC	**Was the project presented to the LHPC?** YES[] NO[X]

Has this project been submitted in previous years? YES[]   NO[X]
If Yes, was it funded? YES[]   NO[] → Funded HPC Project #(s):

Project Type: Big Game Genetic Database Establishment

Brief Project Summary:
This project will consist of providing the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Forensics Laboratory with genetic samples to establish a genetic data base for conducting match analysis in the case of an attack incident or poaching case.

Big Game Wildlife Species to Benefit: Mule Deer, White Tail Deer, Elk, Antelope, Desert Big Horn Sheep, Rocky Mountain Sheep, Bison, Javelina , Turkey Mountain Lion, Black Bear

Implementation Schedule (Month/Day/Year): Project Start Date: January, 2015 Project End Date: February, 2015	**Environmental Compliance**: NEPA Completed: Yes[] No[] N/A[X] Projected Completion Date: _____ State Historic Preservation Office - Archaeological Clearance: Yes[] No[] N/A[X] Projected Completion Date: _____ Arizona Game and Fish Department EA Checklist: N/A[X] To be Completed by: _____ Projected Completion Date: _____

PROJECT FUNDING

Special Big Game License Tag Funds Requested:	$ 4150.00
Cost Share or Matching Funds:	$
Total Project Costs:	**$ 4150.00**

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Applicant (please print): Scott Poppenberger **Telephone**: 928-308-2042	**Address**: 5325 N. Stockton Hill Rd. Kingman, AZ 86409	**E-mail**: spoppenberger@azgfd.gov **Date**: 8/12/14

AGFD Contact and Phone No. (If applicant is not AGFD personnel):

Project has been coordinated with:
Game Branch, Law Enforcement Branch

NEED STATEMENT – PROBLEM ANALYSIS:

Wildlife attacks resulting in injury or death to humans occur in Arizona and the frequency of these events has been increasing. Poaching and other unlawful take also occurs and both attack and poaching investigations may require genetic matching as part of a law enforcement investigation. As the State wildlife agency the Department is a primary investigatory agency and subject matter expert responsible for professional management and resolution of these incidents. Department actions in investigating these incidents are highly scrutinized by the public, media, other agencies and the legislature and may result in significant exposure to liability. The Department is committed to resolving these incidents in the most professional and effective manner possible in the interest of public safety and responsible resource management.

Central to any investigation the concept that any offending or unlawfully taken animal be definitively and scientifically linked to any victims or crime scenes as quickly as possible.

Effectively linking an animal to a victim or violator requires genetic matching that can only be performed by a sophisticated forensic laboratory. The Wyoming Game and Fish Forensic Laboratory is a nationally recognized forensic laboratory specializing in wildlife genetics. It is critical that AZ Establishing a lion and bear genetic databases with this institution to obtain court admissible genetic matching results.

To establish these databased AZ will need to provide the WY forensic laboratory 20 genetic samples from each big game species from each Region of the State. These samples have been collected for these species during mandatory harvest checks of successful hunters and through disease surveillance collection.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Work with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to establish Arizona big game genetic databases. Establishment of these databases will allow the WY Forensic Laboratory to conduct court admissible genetic matching and reporting on these species for human attacks or poaching incidents.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND STRATEGIES:

The Department will ship 20 genetic samples from each species from each Region in the State, to the Wyoming Game and Fish Forensic Laboratory for sequencing to establish Arizona Regional genetic databases for DNA matching.

The WY Forensic Laboratory charges:
$350.0 for each big game species X 11 (Mule Deer, White Tail Deer, Elk, Antelope, Desert Big Horn Sheep, Rocky Mountain Big Horn Sheep, Bison, Lion, Bear, Javelina, Turkey) = **$3850.00**

An additional **$302.25** (estimated) is requested to cover packaging and shipping and costs.
Total: $4152.25

The Department is asking for funding in the amount of $377.50 from each NGO responsible for special big game tag funding to fund this genetic data base establishment.

PROJECT LOCATION:

Statewide

LAND OWNERSHIP AT THE PROJECT SITE(S)*:*

(if the project area is <u>private property,</u> please state specifically and provide the landowner's name)

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IF PRIVATE PROPERTY, IS THERE A COOPERATIVE BIG GAME STEWARDSHIP or LANDOWNER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LANDOWNER AND THE DEPARTMENT?
YES[]   NO[]   N/A[]

HABITAT DESCRIPTION:
N/A

ITEMIZED USE OF FUNDS:

<u>Special Big Game License Tag Funds</u>
Mule Deer:	$377.50
White Tail Deer:	$377.50
Desert BHS	$377.50
Rocky Mt BHS	$377.50
Elk:	$377.50
Antelope:	$377.50
Bison:	$377.50
Javelina:	$377.50
Turkey:	$377.50
Lion:	$377.50
Bear:	$377.50
Total:	**$4152.25**

<u>Cost Share or Matching Funds</u> (*for volunteer labor rates please refer to the worksheet below*)

LIST COOPERATORS AND DESCRIBE POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION:
Wyoming Game and Fish Forensic Laboratory. The laboratory will run and set up genetic databases for all AZ big game species.

WOULD IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROJECT ASSIST IN PROVIDING, MAINTAINING, OR FACILITATING RECREATIONAL ACCESS?
YES[]   NO[X]   N/A[]

PROJECT MONITORING PLAN:

PROJECT MAINTENANCE:

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT TO BE FILED BY:
Scott Poppenberger

WATER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS (*please use the worksheet below***):**

TREE CLEARING/REMOVAL PROJECTS (*please use the worksheet below***):**